TD

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

Distr.
LIMITED

TD/B/SC.6/L.1/Add.1
13 September 1966

Original: ENGLISH

TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD
Fourth Session
Second Sessional Committee

Draft report of the Second Sessional Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. M. FRANEK (Czechoslovakia)

Chapter II (Continued)

D REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON SHIPPING

(agenda item 6)

25. The Committee on Shipping, during its special session held at Geneva from 18 to 25 July 1966, adopted a programme of work in the field of "Level and structure of freight rates, conference practices and adequacy of shipping services" (TD/B/83 and Corr.1).

26. Delegations of developing countries recalled that inasmuch as the programme of work of the Committee on Shipping as a whole had been adopted by that Committee without a single negative vote, the whole programme should be implemented. In their opinion, freight rate studies in general - and route studies in particular - were the most important parts of the programme of work of the Committee on Shipping and should therefore be given high priority. They hoped that the extra funds needed for carrying out the work on these items would be provided and that the liner conference and the shipping industry in general would provide the information necessary for these studies. They also pointed out that only five maritime countries in the Committee on Shipping had voted against the carrying out of route studies, and that some other developed countries had expressed certain reservations, while some voted in favour of these studies.

27. The delegations of some maritime countries with market economies stated that the Committee on Shipping had adopted a comprehensive programme of work, but they regretted that it had not been possible to reach unanimous agreement on one of the projects of

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

this programme. They stated that the carrying out of part of the programme on which consensus had been reached would provide useful information, which would contribute to the development of world trade and dispel misunderstanding. They maintained the view they had taken at the special session of the Committee on Shipping with regard to route studies and reiterated the opinion that such studies were not likely to produce useful results. While pledging their support and co-operation for the programme of work as a whole, they hoped that the secretariat of UNCTAD, in drawing up its schedule of priorities, would take into consideration the critical opinions expressed concerning one project in the programme, and emphasized that the most useful results would follow studies on the establishment of consultation machinery and the improvement and development of ports. Some delegations reserved their position with regard to the financial implications of the programme of work and registered the view that the programme could be financed out of the resources of the regular budget for 1967 by the establishment of appropriate priorities in the work programme, either of the Committee on Shipping or of UNCTAD as a whole.

28. The delegations of some other developed countries reaffirmed their support for all the studies envisaged in the work programme.

29. The delegations of some socialist countries of Eastern Europe stated that the report of the Committee on Shipping reflected unanimity on all objectives of the programme of work. They expressed dissatisfaction that unanimous agreement had not been reached on one of the projects. They stressed the necessity of the implementation of the work programme as adopted by the Committee on Shipping and hoped that the results of the studies concerned would contribute to international understanding in the field of shipping. They recalled the importance of ocean transport to the expansion of world trade and, in particular, to the trade of developing countries.

30. The Second Sessional Committee recommended that the Board should take note of the report of the Committee on Shipping on its special session (TD/B/63 and Corr.1) and approve the recommendations with regard to the work programme contained in paragraph 29 of that report.